

[1 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

- (c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Centre-State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of Road Over Bridges etc.
- (d) The procedure of issue of Land Acquisition notifications has now been simplified.
- (e) To expedite the construction of Road Over Bridges, an officer of the Railways has been posted to National Highways Authority of India to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with M/s. IRCON for construction of some of the Road Over Bridges.
- (f) Action has been taken against non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.
- (g) Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting interest bearing discretionary advance at the request of contractor, release of retention money against bank guarantee of equal amount, deferment of recovery of advances (on interest basis) and relaxation in minimum Interim Payment Certificate (IPC) amount.

Development of shipping industry

364. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programmes made by Government for development and modernization of ports, shipping, shipyards, and inland navigation since the last two years by harnessing the long coastline of our country;

(b) whether Government have decided for public-private partnership projects in the port sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed for the development of shipping industry in view of the increasing growth rate of exports?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Department of Shipping has formulated the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) with the objective of upgrading and modernizing India's maritime infrastructure, keeping in

view India's fast growing economy and increasing share in the international trade. Under the Programme, to be taken up for implementation in phases over a defined period, a total of 387 specific projects have been identified. Total investment involved under the Programme is Rs. 1,00,339 crores. Out of this, Rs. 55,804 crores is for the Major Ports and the balance is for the Shipping and Inland Water Transport Sectors.

In the Major Ports, 276 projects covering entire gamut of activities, namely construction/upgradation of berths, deepening of channels, rail/road connectivity projects, equipment upgradation/modernization schemes and other related schemes for creation of backup facilities have been identified to be taken up for implementation over the period upto 2011 -12 under the said Programme. Out of Rs. 55,804 crores envisaged for the Major Ports, Rs. 34,505 crores is expected from private sector mainly in commercially viable projects like development and operation of berths, terminals, etc. Thus, public private partnership will be a significant mode for implementing the Programme in the Major Ports.

In the Shipping Sector, a total of 111 projects involving total investment of Rs. 44,535 crores over a period of 20 years have been identified for inclusion in the Programme. The activities covered under the Programme include tonnage acquisition, maritime training, coastal shipping, aids to navigation, shipbuilding and building up of Inland Water Transport (IWT) infrastructure.

CRFforNHAI

365. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) receives its share of accruals from the Central Road Fund (CRF) every year;

(b) if so, the quantum of CRF received b/NHAI for the years 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(c) whether many of the NHAI projects suffer for want of funds due to delay in receipt of CRF share from the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.